

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07

IO-10 L-02 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00

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P R 172016Z APR 75

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0966

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0196

FROM US REP MBFR

3. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: SIGNS OF EASTERN READINESS TO DISCUSS
DATA AND FORCE DEFINITIONS

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: DURING THE LAST TWO WEEKS, A NUMBER
OF EASTERN DELEGATES HAVE INDICATED POSSIBLE EASTERN READINESS
TO DISCUSS FORCE DEFINITIONS AND DATA IN THE NEXT ROUND
OF NEGOTIATIONS. MEMBERS OF SOVIET AND CZECHOSLOVAK DELS HAVE
EXPLICITLY EXPRESSED SUCH READINESS THIS WEEK. THEY HAVE
SUGGESTED THAT A DISCUSSION OF GROUND (AND PERHAPS OTHER)
FORCE DEFINITIONS MIGHT COMMENCE EARLY NEXT ROUND,
WHILE INDICATING THAT A SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION OF DATA
SHOULD INCLUDE DISCUSSION OF FIGURES COVERING NUCLEAR AND
AIR FORCES, AS WELL AS GROUND FORCES. THIS MESSAGE REPORTS
THE HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT EAST-WEST BILATERAL EXCHANGES

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ON THE DATA AND GROUND FORCE DEFINITION ISSUES.

DETAILED REPORTS OF RECENT DISCUSSIONS ARE BEING SENT BY AIRGRAM. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING THE AUTUMN AND WINTER ROUNDS OF THE VIENNA TALKS, WESTERN REPS HAVE PRESSED THE EAST HARD FOR A DISCUSSION AND EXCHANGE OF DATA, AND ALSO HAVE OFFERED TO DISCUSS A DEFINITION OF GROUND FORCES.

3. UNTIL RECENTLY, APART FROM OCCASIONAL INDICATIONS OF INTEREST OF POLISH AND CZECH REPS IN THE WESTERN GROUND FORCE DEFINITION IDEA, THE EAST HAS CONSISTENTLY REFUSED TO ENTER INTO A DISCUSSION OR EXCHANGE OF DATA UNTIL AFTER RESOLUTION OF THE BASIC ISSUES OF PRINCIPLE -- I.E., WHOSE FORCES SHOULD BE REDUCED FROM THE OUTSET, WHICH TYPES OF FORCES SHOULD BE REDUCED, AND THE AMOUNT OF REDUCTIONS. MOREOVER, THE EAST HAS REFRAINED FROM ENTERING INTO A GROUND FORCE DEFINITION DISCUSSION.

4. AN EARLY SIGN OF SOME EASTERN RETHINKING OF THE DATA ISSUE WAS CZECHOSLOVAK REP MEISNER'S MARCH 20 INDICATION, TO US DEL OFF, OF POSSIBLE EASTERN READINESS FOR PARALLEL DISCUSSION OF DATA AND ISSUES OF PRINCIPLE, AS SUGGESTED BY WEST. HOWEVER, MEISNER SAID THAT IN RETURN, THE WEST FIRST SHOULD AGREE IN PRINCIPLE THAT NUCLEAR AND AIR FORCES, AS WELL AS GROUND FORCES, SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN REDUCTIONS (MBFR VIENNA 0128).

5. IN MARCH 27 DISCUSSION WITH CANADIAN REP (GRANDE), POLISH REP STRULAK SAID THAT DATA DISCUSSION WAS PREMATURE, BUT THAT WESTERN SUGGESTION OF PARALLEL DISCUSSIONS OF DATA AND BASIC ISSUES MIGHT BE CONSIDERED IF THE WESTERN SIDE "CAME UP WITH SOMETHING NEW." (MBFR VIENNA A-49).

6. IN APRIL 8 TALKS WITH UK MILITARY DELOFF (COL. JENKINS) (TEXT IN MBFR VIENNA A-54), POLISH DELOFF COL. OSTASZEWICZ SAID THAT THE DISPARITY IN GROUND FORCES WAS NOT AS GREAT AS THE WEST CLAIMED. COL. JENKINS ASKED WHY, IF THIS WAS SO, EAST WERE RELUCTANT TO ENTER
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INTO A DATA DISCUSSION. OSTASZEWICZ REPLIED THAT THE RUSSIANS WERE NOT INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING DATA AT THIS STAGE, BUT INDICATED THAT HE PERSONALLY WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO DOING SO.

7. ON APRIL 9, BELGIAN DEPREP WILLOT INFORMED ACDA REPS ON US DELEGATION THAT HE HAD RECEIVED A STRONG HINT THAT THE EAST WOULD AGREE TO DISCUSS DATA

IN THE NEXT ROUND. WILLOT SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT, ON THE EASTERN SIDE, ONLY THE GDR REMAINED OPPOSED ON A DATA DISCUSSION.

8. ON APRIL 11 CONVERSATION WITH US REP, SOVIET REP KHLESTOV REPLIED TO SUGGESTION OF DATA DISCUSSION BY ASKING WHETHER DATA DISCUSSION WOULD INCLUDE AIR FORCES AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS. IN THE APRIL 15 INFORMAL MEETING, WHEN PRESSED FOR DISCUSSION OF DATA, KHLESTOV ASKED THE SAME QUESTION.

9. IN APRIL 15 TALK WITH NETHERLANDS DELOFF COL. DE REGT, SOVIET DELOFF COL. KAPITONOV INDICATED FLATLY THAT SOVIETS COULD AGREE TO START DISCUSSING DATA IN THE NEXT ROUND, FOLLOWING THE SPRING RECESS. KAPITONOV WANTED TO START WITH A DISCUSSION ON THE DEFINITION OF GROUND FORCES WHICH HE SAID WOULD PROBABLY LEAD TO DISCUSSION OF ACTUAL FIGURES. KAPITONOV STATED THAT BASIC WESTERN FIGURES WERE WRONG, AND THAT THE DISPARITIES, ESPECIALLY RELATED TO NUMBER OF TANKS, WERE NOT AS GREAT AS CLAIMED BY THE WEST. KAPITONOV ALSO PRESSED FOR INCLUSION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN REDUCTIONS, SAYING SYSTEMS WERE MORE IMPORTANT THAN WARHEADS.

10. KAPITONOV CONFIRMED THESE REMARKS IN BRIEF APRIL 17 FOLLOW-UP TALK WITH DE REGT.

11. IN APRIL 16 DISCUSSION WITH US REP, SOVIET REP KHLESTOV REFERRED TO ALLIED PROPOSALS FOR DISCUSSIONS ON DATA AND GROUND FORCE DEFINITION. KHLESTOV

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0196

FROM US REP MBFR

ASKED WHAT THE ALLIES WOULD GIVE TO THE EAST IN
RETURN IF THE EAST AGREED TO SUCH A DISCUSSION. WHEN
US REP SAID SUCH DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE IN MUTUAL
INTEREST, KHLESTOV DID NOT PRESS POINT ABOUT QUID PRO
QUO.

12. IN APRIL 15 DISCUSSION WITH FRG REP (BEHREND),
CZECHOSLOVAK REP MEISNER EXPRESSED INTEREST IN WESTERN
IDEA OF PARALLEL DISCUSSIONS OF DATA AND ISSUES OF
PRINCIPLE. MEISNER SAID THIS MIGHT BE POSSIBLE IF
THE WEST WAS INDICATING READINESS TO MOVE ON ISSUES OF
PRINCIPLE. MEISNER SAID EAST WOULD LIKE TO START BY
DISCUSSION OF DEFINITION OF GROUND FORCES.

13. IN APRIL 17 TALK WITH US DELOFF, ZECO-
SLOVAK REP REPLIED TO SUGGESTION OF PARALLEL DISCUSSIONS
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OF DATA AND ISSUES OF PRINCIPLE BY FLATLY FAVORING
DISCUSSION OF GROUND FORCE DEFINITION AT OUTSET OF
NEXT ROUND. MEISNER SAID PARALLEL DISCUSSIONS OF
DATA AND BASIC ISSUES COULD BE USEFUL IF WEST WERE READY
TO CHANGE ITS POSITION ON PRINCIPLE OF REDUCING NUCLEAR
AND AIR FORCES (INCLUDING AIRCRAFT) IN ADDITION TO
GROUND FORCES. MEISNER SAID SUCH A DATA DISCUSSION
COULD PROVIDE THE INFORMATION NECESSARY TO CLARIFY
BASIS FOR A "DEAL" INVOLVING REDUCTION OF BOTH
SOVIET TANKS AND US TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

14. FOLLOWING APRIL 17 PLENARY MEETING, SOVIET
DELOFF SHUSTOV INDICATED TO US DELOFF THAT THE SOVIETS
WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS DATA IN THE
NEXT ROUND. SHUSTOV SAID HE WAS NOT SURE, HOWEVER,
HOW A DATA DISCUSSION WOULD PROCEED. HE ASKED WHETHER
THE WEST THOUGHT PARTICIPANTS SHOULD TALK ABOUT TERMINOLOGY
AND DEFINITIONS BEFORE GETTING TO NUMBERS AND

WHETHER THE WEST WOULD INSIST ON DISCUSSING
NUMBERS BEFORE MORE GENERAL MATTERS SUCH AS DEFINITIONS
WERE DISCUSSED.

15. COMMENT: RECENT EASTERN HINTS ON THIS SUBJECT HAVE
BEEN SO FREQUENT, WIDESPREAD AND OPEN THAT THEY
APPEAR TO BE A FAIRLY AUTHORITATIVE INDICATION OF
EASTERN READINESS TO DISCUSS FORCE DEFINITIONS AND
DATA IN THE NEXT ROUND. THE DELEGATION REGARDS THIS AS
A DESIRABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN POSITION AND WILL
BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE WITH WASHINGTON AGENCIES
IN THE PENDING RECESS. END COMMENT.RESOR

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